

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED SIXTH MEETING

Burpee Museum of Natural History  
737 North Main Street  
Rockford, IL

September 21, 2010 10:00 a.m.

\*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:\* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:\* Approval of Minutes of the 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2010

Item 4: Proposed 2011 Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2011 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield  
May 3, 2011 – The National Great Rivers Museum, East Alton  
September 20, 2011 – Location to be determined, McHenry County

Item 5: Election of Advisors and Consultants

REPORT

Bruce Ross-Shannon

Nominating Committee

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Election of Advisors and Consultants

Current Advisors:

Marc Miller IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Bonnie Styles IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Mike Demissie IL State Water Survey	Janet S. Grimes IL Historic Preservation Agency	Dr. E. Donald McKay, III IL State Geological Survey
Dr. John C. Marlin IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. Gary Miller Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability	Dr. William W. Shilts Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelmann	Marilyn Campbell	Tom Clay
Kenneth Fiske	Jerry Paulson	Joseph Roth
Valerie Spale	Leslee Spraggins	John White

Item 6: INPC Staff Report

REPORT  
Randy Heidorn  
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 7: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT  
Don McFall  
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 8: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT  
Anne Mankowski  
Endangered Species Protection Board Manager

Item 9:\* Hardin Co. – Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve. Registration

The proposed 77.215-acre Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve, owned by Lafarge Midwest, Inc., is a high-quality, grade A and B limestone glade community and dry upland forest/limestone glade complex which protects a portion of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site known as Barker Bluff (#33). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this rare community type. There is one state-threatened species and three state-endangered species occurring at this natural area, and the community itself is rare. The proposed Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Natural Division. This site is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. The registration agreement will be in effect for five years. Preservation of this site will address several action steps in the Forests Campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). It will target increased acreages of open woodlands and barrens and will assist private forest management in improving the latter categories. It will also assist with the Invasive Species Campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species. This site is important because it provides habitat for Illinois species in greatest need of conservation as identified in the IWAP.

REPORT  
Judy Faulkner Dempsey  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 10:\* Jo Daviess Co. – Canyon Camp Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. Registration

The Blackhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) proposes to permanently register 85.1 acres as the Canyon Camp addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division. The

proposed Canyon Camp addition will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Land and Water Reserve (181.9-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres) owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). It would also protect dry and wet cliff communities found along Coon Creek, as well as a known population of the state-threatened plant sullivantia (*Sullivantia sullivantii*). Much of the 85.1 acres are rugged mesic and dry-mesic upland forest with two small pockets of pine plantation. The wide ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. The INAI identified exceptional areas of dry prairie, cliff communities, and dolomite exposures (#1069). Currently, nine state-endangered and four state-threatened plants are known to occur at Apple River Canyon. If approved, the 85.1-acre Canyon Camp addition will remain undeveloped and will be managed and used in a manner consistent with preserving the natural and scenic qualities of the site. The BSA uses the proposed addition for hiking, primitive camping, and nature study in a wilderness setting as part of the programs offered at its Canyon Camp. Such outdoor recreational activities are consistent with the registration goals of the site to help protect Apple River Canyon and its unique natural features, as well as protecting those unique natural features found on-site.

REPORT

John Nelson

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 11:\* Jo Daviess Co. – Wiley Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Natural Land Institute (NLI) proposes to permanently register 34.4 acres as the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. The proposed Wiley addition, located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division, will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Land and Water Reserve (181.9-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres) owned by the IDNR. The wide ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. Currently, nine state-endangered and four state-threatened plant species are known to occur at Apple River Canyon. The proposed Wiley addition is located adjacent to a portion of the INAI boundary (#1069) on the west side of Apple River Canyon. The proposed addition consists of 17.2 acres of mesic upland forest and 17.2 acres of open pastureland. The site is ideally suited as buffer to protect the unique cliff communities and other significant ecological and geological features found within Apple River Canyon. The registration of the Wiley addition helps support goals of the IWAP in the Streams, Forests, and Farmland and Prairies campaigns, as well as protecting existing habitat for state listed plants and animals. The proposed addition is within the Apple River Conservation Opportunity Area. If approved, the Wiley addition will be transferred to the Blackhawk Area Council of the BSA. The BSA plan to use the Wiley addition for passive outdoor recreational activities associated with programs offered at their adjoining Canyon Camp. The 17.2-acre pasture will be used for cattle grazing for three years. Such activities, as well as management activities, will be consistent with the registration of the site to help protect the Apple River Canyon and its unique natural features. The Wiley addition

offers excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation, nature study, and ecological restorations. As part of this registration proposal, the NLI proposes to register 34.4 acres as the Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon, which upon approval, will be transferred to the BSA.

REPORT

John Nelson

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 12:\* Lake Co. – Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Village of Lake Bluff and Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA) propose to register Skokie River Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve. The proposed Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve is a 24.2-acre mosaic of grade C sedge meadow, wet prairie, wet-mesic prairie, and mesic prairie located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. This site meets the criteria required for registration and an Illinois land and water reserve under the provision of degraded but restorable prairie of at least 20 acres in size or equivalent to grade C under the INAI grading criteria. Skokie River Prairie is owned in part by the Village of Lake Bluff (105 lots totaling 23.7 acres) and LBOLA (two lots totaling 0.5 acres) and is located within a matrix of platted, but unbuilt roads, and six lots that remain in private ownership. The platted roads and six lots are not included in the registration proposal. The prairies at this site are considered “imperiled globally” (G-2) by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and are considered the first (or highest) tier for conservation in the Chicago region. These prairies have been intensively managed by the LBOLA under the terms of an agreement with the Village of Lake Bluff. Protection and stewardship of the Skokie River Prairie supports several action steps identified in the Farmland and Prairies Campaign and Wetlands Campaign sections of the IWAP and provides habitat for three bird species identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Steven Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 13:\* Grundy Co. – Hildy Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Hildy family seeks preliminary approval for dedication of their 8.5 acres of wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow as a nature preserve. Hildy Prairie is comprised of two distinct units which are separated by a private drive. The 5.5-acre north unit is owned by Clyde and Mary Ellen Hildy. The 3-acre south unit is owned by Wallace and Barbara Hildy. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Hildy Prairie is included on the INAI (#1360) because it provides habitat for the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and a state-endangered and federally-threatened flower. The prairie supports at least one wildlife species in greatest need of conservation, the sphinx moth (*Sphinx eremtis*). Dedication of Hildy Prairie as a nature preserve promotes numerous action steps outlined in the IWAP. The Hildy family enrolled the prairie in the INPC’s Natural Heritage Landmark program in 1981 and has been actively managing the site since that time. The Hildys wish to permanently protect

their prairie and promote the management of its unique character by dedicating it as a nature preserve.

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:\* Jackson Co. – Gene Korando Addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR proposes to dedicate 62.39 acres of the Lovets Pond INAI site (#1175) as the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve. The addition is located in the Southern Section of the Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands Natural Division. Lovets Pond is a 152-acre wetland ecosystem located 15 miles east of Murphysboro. The site is characterized by six natural communities, including pond, shrub swamp, swamp, marsh, floodplain forest, and successional field. The communities provide habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms and 328 taxa of vascular flora. The natural character of Lovets Pond is similar to the earliest known presettlement description of the land. The pond, shrub swamp, swamp, and marsh are of high natural quality and are rare in the natural division. Only two other significant natural ponds remain in this natural division. The proposed Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve is within the Larue-Pine Hills-Western Shawnee Trail of Tears Conservation Opportunity Area. The protection of Lovets Pond Nature Preserve supports action steps identified for the IWAP Wetlands Campaign to improve wetland habitat and coordinate wetland goals.

REPORT  
Judy Faulkner Dempsey  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:\* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

TNC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 97 acres, comprised of three tracts, as additions to the 85-acre Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and its proposed additions are located within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, owned by TNC, is part of the larger Pembroke Savanna INAI site (#975) due to its high-quality sand savanna communities. The proposed addition is also included in this INAI site, and support dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, and an old agricultural field reverting to wet-mesic sand prairie. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed addition lie within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area. The Nature Preserve provides habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) and at least three other species in greatest need of conservation: red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), and a reptile. Dedication of the proposed addition will protect additional acreage of Pembroke Savanna INAI site, habitat for species in greatest need of conservation, and help complete a solid preserve design for this Nature Preserve. If approved, the total acreage protected within the Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve boundaries will be 182 acres.

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:\* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 41.5 acres as a buffer addition to the 449.5-acre MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve. MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve (INAI #1003) is the largest block of unbroken forest in Lake County and consists of 446 acres owned by the LCFPD and a 3.5-acre buffer addition owned by Robert and Jan Halkovich. With the proposed buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 491.0 acres. MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic upland forest and a cultural community undergoing restoration since 1985 and supports populations of the state-listed pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*) and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of this 41.5-acre proposed buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The large forested block, which includes the proposed buffer addition, supports 17 birds, one amphibian, and two mammals identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 17:\* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Middlefork Savanna Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The LCFPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 115.1 acres as a buffer addition to the 602.95-acre Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve. Middlefork Savanna (INAI # 1245) is owned in part by the LCFPD (499.0 acres), Lake Forest Open Lands Association (82.8 acres), Frank Farwell (8.162 acres), the Lillard trust (12.692 acres), and the City of Lake Forest (0.3 acres). With the proposed 115.1-acre buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 718.05 acres. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D wet prairie, grade C/D sedge meadow and a cultural community. Although no state-listed plants are currently known from the proposed buffer addition, it does provide suitable breeding habitat for the five state-listed animal species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Wilson's phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*), king rail (*Rallus elegans*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 115.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forest, Wetlands, and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 16 birds, seven insects, two fish, one mammal, one reptile, and one amphibian identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 18:\* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The LCFPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 604.1 acres as a buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition would increase the size of Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve from 433.1 acres to 1037.2 acres, occupying most of the 1187.4-acre Wadsworth Prairie Forest Preserve. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI #0649) and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D freshwater marsh, grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet, wet-mesic, and mesic prairie, grade C/D graminoid fen and a cultural community undergoing restoration for 25 years. Although the proposed buffer addition does not currently support any state-listed plants, both LCFPD and INPC staff believe the proposed buffer addition does provide suitable habitat for a federally-listed and state-endangered plant found in the Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition does provide suitable breeding habitat for four state-listed species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 604.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Wetlands and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 20 birds, two reptiles, and one insect identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Upper Des Plaines River Conservation Opportunity Area.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 19:\* Lake Co. – Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The LCFPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 138 acres of the Captain Daniel Wright Forest Preserve as Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve is located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve encompasses the Elm Road Woods INAI site (# 1555). The 84-acre proposed nature preserve includes grade B/C dry-mesic upland forest and grade B/C northern flatwoods. The 54-acre nature preserve buffer includes a cultural community undergoing restoration. Ten acres of high-quality northern flatwoods identified at this site represent more than a 10% increase in the amount of this community known from the entire State and is considered the first (or highest) tier for conservation in the Chicago region. Northern flatwoods are also recognized by TNC as “imperiled globally” (G-2). To date, 321 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve and include the state-listed brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*), pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*), pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*), marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of Elm Road Woods is consistent

with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve also provides habitat for five birds, two amphibians, and three insects identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 20:\* McHenry Co. – Boger Bog Nature Preserve, Dedication

The McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of approximately 36.9 acres of land to be known as Boger Bog Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located adjacent to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve within the Village of Bull Valley and in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Boger Bog is part of a larger natural spring-fed wetland covering approximately 42.7 acres. This larger site is recognized on the INAI (#1265) and the McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory (#NUN10). Together, the proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve and the existing Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve will afford legal protection to nearly all of the inventoried natural area. Boger Bog is named in memory of Frederick C. Boger who owned the land from 1955 until his death in 2000. Mr. Boger stipulated that the site be named “Boger Bog.” However, the site does not actually contain a bog and is best described as having a graminoid fen and sedge meadow wetland. The proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve also consists of oak woodlands and savannas on uplands surrounding the fen. The site has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. One state-threatened plant, spike rush (*Eliocharis rostellata*), is also known to occur within the proposed nature preserve.

REPORT

John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 21:\* McHenry Co. – Detrana Fen Buffer Addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The MCCD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 56.2 acres as a buffer addition to the 113.84-acre Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve. The Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition lie within the Detrana Fen INAI site (# 1557) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade B/C graminoid fen and calcareous seep, grade C sedge meadow, freshwater marsh, and spring run, and grade C dry-mesic upland forest. To date, 102 plant species have been recorded from the proposed buffer addition and include the state-endangered green-fruited burreed (*Sparganium emersum*) and state-threatened slender bog arrow grass (*Triglochin palustris*), false asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), and beaked spike rush (*Eliocharis rostellata*). Extensive wildlife surveys have been conducted by the MCCD and include the following species identified by IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation: two-spotted skipper (*Euphyes bimacula*), blackchin shiner, central mudminnow (*Lepomis macrochirus*), lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*), sandhill crane (*Grus*

*canadensis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Protection and stewardship of the proposed buffer addition support an action step of the IWAP's Wetlands Campaign. Both the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition are located within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Conservation Opportunity Area. Dedication of the proposed buffer addition will increase the size of Fel-Pro Triple R Fen from 113.84 acres to 170.04 acres.

REPORT

Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 22:\* McHenry Co. – Sweetwater Creek Addition and Buffer to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Robert and Maggie Bailey seek preliminary approval for dedication of approximately 29 acres of land to be known as the Sweetwater Creek addition (24 acres) and buffer (5 acres) to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve addition and buffer consists of a large, high-quality relict sedge meadow with elements of wet prairie and fen wetland indicator plant species. The proposed addition and buffer is within the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site and is located within a ground-water watershed that has been designated a Class III Special Resource Groundwater by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Pollution Control Board. The Boone Creek Fen and Seep is a 465-acre INAI site (#1015) representing one of the finest examples of graminoid fen and calcareous seep wetlands within the State. Dedication will also help protect a known population of a state-threatened flower. The sedge meadow wetlands offer an excellent opportunity to further restore the wetland system that occurs on the valley floor along Boone Creek. The relatively intact groundwater system that sustains the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site is a key element to the successful restoration of the entire site. This dedication proposal is consistent with the long-term goal to protect as much of the Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI site as possible through the formation of a macro-preserve of privately owned lands. If approved, Maggie and Robert Bailey would become the seventh landowner to enroll land into this macro-preserve complex. If approved, the Sweetwater Creek addition and buffer will increase the acreage of legally protected lands to 133.1 acres.

REPORT

John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 23:\* Randolph Co. – Mayor Larry Durbin Addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve, Dedication

J. W. Gonterman seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the 10-acre Mayor Larry Durbin addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve. This site is in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain and the town of Prairie du Rocher and is adjacent to the 15-acre Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is adjacent to the INAI site boundary (INAI #99) and is comprised entirely of grade C dry-mesic upland forest. The dedication of the addition to Prairie of the Rock Nature Preserve supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests,

Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The proposed addition is located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division, and is within the Bluff Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area. The addition is named after longtime Prairie du Rocher Mayor, Larry Durbin, who passed away a few years ago.

REPORT

Debbie Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 24:\* Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

TNC seeks final approval for dedication of 4.344 acres, consisting of 32 lots totaling 2.827 acres and an additional 1.517 acres of portions of platted, but unbuilt streets and alleys that can now be vacated, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. These properties were acquired by TNC via a tax deed-scavenger sale (dated September 23, 2009) and subject to a Circuit Court of Cook County order (dated September 24, 2009) directing issuance of said tax deed. An Agreed Order issued by the Circuit Court of Cook County (dated May 18, 2010) dismissed a motion by the City of Markham to vacate the order issuing the tax deed. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the site INAI (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and grade D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 192.94 to 197.284 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157<sup>th</sup> Street and 159<sup>th</sup> Street. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2071).

REPORT

Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 25:\* Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

TNC seeks final approval for dedication of 3.655 acres of portions of platted, but unbuilt streets and alleys that can now be vacated, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in

the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the site INAI (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and grade D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 197.284 to 200.939 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157<sup>th</sup> Street and 159<sup>th</sup> Street. The Commission granted preliminary approval for adjacent properties at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2071).

REPORT

Steven Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 26:\* Edwards Co. - Buffer Addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, Dedication

Roger and Vivian Beadles seek final approval for dedication of 15 acres as a second buffer addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, increasing the size of the Nature Preserve from 10 to 25 acres. The site is located within the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural and is recognized by the INAI (#1547) as a Category I site for grade B dry-mesic barrens and has populations of the state-endangered orchid and the state-threatened savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*). The five-acre Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication by the INPC at its 166<sup>th</sup> meeting in February, 2000 (Resolution #1523). A 4.5-acre buffer addition was granted final approval for dedication at the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting of the INPC in March, 2002 (Resolution #1635). The proposed second buffer addition adjoins the west boundary of the Nature Preserve and the north boundary of the first buffer addition. The proposed buffer addition is former crop fields that are being restored to prairie and open woodland communities. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2072).

REPORT

Bob Edgin

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 27:\* Hancock Co. – Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR wishes to dedicate the entire 37-acre Geissler Savanna Land and Water Reserve as Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna Nature Preserve in honor of historic resident botanist and physician, Dr. Samuel Barnum Mead, for whom Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) and Mead's sedge are named. The nine-acre high-quality savanna remnant is proposed for nature preserve dedication and the remaining 28 acres of restored prairie and successional field are proposed for dedication as nature preserve buffer. The site is located within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie

Natural Division. The site is recognized by the INAI as Category I containing nine acres of grade B/C dry and dry-mesic savanna and as a Category II for supporting four state-listed plant species, savanna blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*), Mead's milkweed, Virginia bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*), and a rare plant. The site also provides habitat for at least six species in greatest need of conservation as identified by the IWAP. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2073).

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 28:\* Hardin Co. – Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed 42-acre Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, owned by Lafarge North Midwest, Inc., is a high-quality grade A and B limestone glade community. The site protects the western part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this rare community type. The Lafarge Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Lafarge Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. Preservation of Lafarge Limestone Glade will address several actions steps in the Forests Campaign of the IWAP by conserving an INAI site, assisting private forest management in improving the latter categories, and assisting with the Invasive Species Campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 200<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October, 2008 (Resolution 2011).

REPORT

Judy Faulkner Dempsey

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 29:\* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

TNC seeks final approval for dedication of a 10-acre tract as an addition to the 68-acre Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is located within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is owned by TNC and was formally dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory in 2008. The Nature Preserve is part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#0638). Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), clustered sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus schneideri*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), and a rare plant. The proposed addition is also part

of the Leesville Savanna INAI site, and it supports at least two state-listed plants: clustered sedge and old plainsman. It lies within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and provides habitat for several animal species in greatest need of conservation. This addition would provide additional habitat for many species of conservation concern, buffer high-quality natural communities, and allow the Nature Preserve to be managed in a way to maintain its unique natural character. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2075).

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 30:\* McHenry Co. – Westwood Park Addition and Buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The City of Woodstock seeks final approval for dedication of approximately 63.6 acres of land to be known as the Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve (17.1-acre addition and 46.5-acre buffer addition). The nature preserve and the proposed addition and buffer are located along the western boundary of the City of Woodstock in the Morainal Section of the Northeast Morainal Natural Division. Both sites are part of a larger natural wetland complex covering approximately 260 acres and consisting of a mosaic of prairies, wetlands, and oak savannas. The area has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. The proposed Westwood Park addition is recognized on the INAI (#1568) as part of a wetland complex containing a high-quality grade B, wet-mesic prairie. The proposed Westwood Park buffer consists of several relict natural communities that offer good restoration opportunities and are suitable for passive public use. The proposed addition lies within the Crowsfoot Marsh/Coon Creek/Kishwaukee River Conservation Opportunity Area. It also supports action steps for several campaigns identified in the IWAP and provides habitat for several birds in greatest need of conservation. The dedication of the proposed Westwood Park addition and buffer to Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will help protect a relict natural community included on the INAI and at least one state-listed animal. Restoration and management of this natural area will benefit area sensitive grassland dependent birds. If approved, the lands protected at Yonder Prairie Nature Preserve will increase from 40.3 acres to 103.9 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May, 2010 (Resolution 2076).

REPORT  
John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 31:\* Jasper Co. – Correction of Error in Legal Description in the Dedication Agreement for Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve

The 25.86-acre Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve was given final approval for dedication at the 175<sup>th</sup> meeting of the INPC (Resolution 1653) on May 7, 2002, and the dedication document was recorded in Jasper County on July 11, 2002. The IDNR

recently identified an error in the legal description. The corrected legal description will need to be approved by the Commission, attached to the original dedication document, and re-recorded.

REPORT

Randy Heidorn  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Corrected Legal  
Description

Item 32:\* Tazewell Co. – Dirksen-McNaughton Woods Land and Water Reserve Bridge Replacement

The City of Pekin is seeking written concurrence to proceed with the Federal Highway Administration's process for making a *de minimus* finding regarding plans to replace the Sheridan Road bridge/culvert structure at Lick Creek within a portion of the Dirksen-McNaughton Woods Land and Water Reserve (INAI #1741), an 828-acre site owned by the Pekin Park District. Dirksen-McNaughton Woods was registered as a land and water reserve to protect nearly 700 acres of second-growth forest that has supported a breeding bird community which includes 17 species sensitive to the effects of forest fragmentation. The 25.3-foot-wide bridge across Lick Creek must be replaced due to its age and deterioration. The new bridge will be 38 feet wide, including a 5-foot-wide sidewalk, which will allow hikers to avoid vehicles in the roadway. The present bridge does not have a sidewalk. The roadway right-of-way is by prescriptive use, and was excluded from the registered area. In order to replace the bridge, approximately 0.06 acres outside of the current prescriptive-use footprint will be impacted, including three trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height and two sand bars (0.05 acres) in the Creek, which were determined by the Illinois Natural History Survey to be wetlands of low natural quality. None of the forest along Sheridan Road may be considered high quality. Any desirable trees that may have to be removed and the impacted wetlands will be mitigated. This project will not result in additional permanent forest fragmentation, although the area within the construction footprint will certainly be disturbed. Control measures will be taken to protect Lick Creek from erosion and sedimentation during construction. Predicted changes to stream hydrology due to the new bridge/culvert structure have been further examined by consultants, and recommendations were provided to the INPC. Other issues identified by Commissioners and INPC Consultants at the 204<sup>th</sup> meeting have been addressed. Following construction, the City of Pekin will seek a permanent easement on the road right-of-way, the revised boundaries of which will be determined by a professional survey, for roadway maintenance. This project will enhance public safety, but will require encroachment into the Land and Water Reserve. Written concurrence, if conferred, is necessary for *de minimus* documentation to be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. A *de minimus* finding will allow Maurer-Stutz, Inc. to proceed to final design phase, at which time INPC staff will be provided specifications for review and approval.

REPORT

George B. Merkel  
Maurer-Stutz, Inc.  
Thomas V. Lerczak/Jenny Skufca  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Written Concurrence to Proceed with  
“*de minimus* finding” Process and a  
Finding that the Project is in the  
Public Interest

Item 33: Vermilion Co. – Introduction of the Northern Riffleshell Mussel to Jordan Creek of the North Fork Nature Preserve

The IDNR proposes to introduce a population of the northern riffleshell mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) to Jordan Creek of the North Fork Nature Preserve. The riffleshell mussel is listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as an endangered species. The mussel formerly occurred in the North Fork of the Vermilion River but has not been reported alive in Illinois in more than 70 years. It is considered extirpated in Illinois. Jordan Creek of the North Fork Nature Preserve protects a one mile segment of Jordan Creek. Five state endangered or threatened species of mussels occur in the Nature Preserve. The Nature Preserve is owned by the Vermilion County Conservation District Foundation. The Recovery Plan for the northern riffleshell, approved by the USFWS in 1994, identified a recovery objective of establishing viable populations of riffleshells in ten separate river drainages. Population augmentations and reintroductions will be needed to achieve this objective, and the Vermilion River was identified as a candidate for reintroduction. If the proposed introduction is approved, 50 adult riffleshell mussels, obtained from the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania, will be released into suitable habitat in the Creek in the Nature Preserve. The current translocation is part of a salvage activity related to a large bridge construction project in Pennsylvania and is a one year pilot effort. The potential for future augmentations into Illinois, including the Nature Preserve, will be evaluated by the riffleshell recovery team in out-years. Partners in the restoration include the IDNR, the Illinois ESPB, the INPC, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the USFWS (Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois Field Offices), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Ohio State University and the Vermilion County Conservation District.

REPORT  
Bob Szafoni  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Kelly Neal  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Mussel Introduction

Item 34: Election of Officers – INPC Nominating Committee Report

REPORT  
Bruce Ross-Shannon  
Nominating Committee  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Officers

Item 35: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Stewardship Proposals

The Natural Areas Stewardship project uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund [NAAF] (15% of NAAF capital appropriation) to fund management activities on both state and non-state-owned nature preserves and land and water reserves. From currently proposed FY2011 appropriations, \$243,000 will be available for natural areas stewardship needs statewide. Proposed projects will match an additional \$127,000 in non-state funds for natural areas management.

REPORT  
Deborah Stone  
Randy Heidorn  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Bob Szafoni  
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Commission Approval

Item 36: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 37: Other Business

Item 38: Adjournment